

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are currently pending. Claim 3 is amended herein. Support for the amendments is detailed below.

Applicants' Response to the Objection to the Specification

The Office has objected to the abstract as failing to comply with the requirements pursuant to MPEP §608.01(b). In response thereto, applicants have amended the Abstract herein to be a single paragraph and not use legal terminology.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Objections

The Office has objected to claims 3 and 4 as being in improper form. In response thereto, applicants have amended claim 3 to clarify that the claims are directed to a structure not a process. The pending claims 3 and 4 are directed to the seventh embodiment as set forth in Figs. 16-18 and described in detail at pages 15-18. As such, applicants have amended the claims to more distinctly claim the structure of this embodiment and remove language which may be considered directed to a process.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (US 6,135,330). As set forth in Figs. 1 and 2 of Wang, a single piece of material forms the hanger body 1. This hanger body 1 is folded at the horizontal axis, and two upper ends 11 (lugs) are fastened together by a fastening means 12, 13. A hook 3 is then applied to form the suit hanger.

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See col. 1, line 59 to col. 2, line 11. The Office maintains that this disclosure teaches the limitations of claims 3-4.

In response thereto, applicants have amended claim 3 to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, applicants have amended claim 3 to recite that a vertical-directional upper area is not detachable from the wall, so that the vertical-directional lower area is bent along the horizontal axis, and a bent portion and a remaining portion are capable of holding clothes when the detachable portion is detached, and when the detachable portion is not detached the bent portion and the remaining portion are assimilated in the flexible member formed on a surface of the wall and are thereby recognized as a portion of a surface of the wall to naked eyes. Amended claim 3 is based on the descriptions of the seventh embodiment of present invention. See page 15, line 14 to page 18, line 9 of the specification. In other words, amended claim 3 is limited to the contents of the seventh embodiment shown in Figs. 16 to 18. The cited reference, Wang, does not indicate the above-mentioned constructional elements in amended claim 3.

As set forth in the specification at pages 15-18, the flexible member S covers the entire surface of the wall plane W. A part of a shape corresponding to the plate main member 10A is almost completely cut out of the material S except for its upper end. The plate member 10A is connected with the flexible member S only via the upper end 12T. See page 16, lines 11-19 of the specification. Further, as set forth in Fig. 17, the plate main member 10A is bent on the horizontal axis X by folding the lower portion 14B along the X-axis. Hook buttons 21T and 21B

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are engaged with each other to form the cloths holder. See page 16, line 25 to page 17, line 2.
See also page 17, lines 8-12 and Fig. 18.

Wang does not teach the hanger body 1 as being formed integrally from a flexible member covering the surface of a wall. Therefore, Wang does not anticipate the seven embodiment of applicants' invention.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Caridi", is written over the printed name and title.

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